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PUBLIC LIBRARY FINANCE

Sources and Problems*

By
N. C. Chakravarty,
Librarian,
Ministry of Finance,
Government of India, New Delhi

This brief study on sources and problems of public library finance with particular reference to India is based on the investigations carried since publication of the Library Advisory Committee Report in 1959. The ways and means of public library finance vis-a-vis the trends of national tax policy operating at all levels of government over a period of more than a century in countries like U.K. and U.S.A., where the public library idea found its first practical expression, have been examined with a view to analyze and understand the current corresponding situation in India. The fact of overall national planning in India under conditions of extremely low per capita income points to measures taken in U.S.S.R. where planning as a mechanism for development has attained unique success. The results of factual analysis of the issues involved are contained in the suggestions (a) a policy decision at the national level for adequate public library development within the frame-work of educational programmes under the Five Year Plans, (b) allocation of funds amounting to 1.5% of the total annual expenditure on education or 5% of that on primary education to start with.

Money is the accepted measure of the value and volume of goods and services. We know, perhaps too often, to our disappointment that problems of finding money to purchase goods and services are responsible for our not being able to get quite a few things that we desire o have. This is true in respect of public libraries and their services which we dasire to have but can not get as we can not pay for them.

The United Kingdom has built up its public library service having 7.7 crore[1] volumes of books in 42,868 libraries and service

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* Lecture delivered as a Visiting Professor at the Department of Library Science, M.S. University of Baroda on 15. 12. 64.

[1] One crore or 100 lakhs = 10 million.

points spread all over the country with buildings, equipments and staff to circulate over 45 crore volumes at a cost of nearly £2.5 crores (Rs. 33.456 crores) per annum for a population of 5.3 crores. The corresponding data for U.S.A. are 17.32 crore volumes 10,823 public library systems (with many more service points), over 60 crore volumes circulation at a cost of $31 crores (Rs. 148.8 crores) per annum for a population of nearly 18 crores. In India there are few public libraries in the proper sense of the term and their total stock and expenditure per annum will not exceed 1 crore volumes and Rs. 1.5 crores respectively per annum for a population of over 45 crores.

Public libraries in the sense it is understood today came into being in the U.K. with the passing of the First Public Libraries Act in 1850 authorising town councils of 10,000 population and over to levy library rate of a half penny in the pound. Since then with the passage of time the state of libraries in that country has been reviewed many times. In 1927 a review Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Frederic Kenyon reported as follows:—

"The public interest in libraries has greatly increased and we believe there is now a far healtheir belief in the value of knowledge and in the importance of intellectual life in all the busy centres of national activity than in any previous period of history. In such centres the public library is no longer regarded as a means of providing casual recreation of an innocent but somewhat unimportant character, it is recognised as an engine of great potentialities for national welfare and as the essential foundation of progress in education and culture without which no people can hold its own in the struggle for existence". We in India are engaged in an extremely grim struggle for existence as a nation. The above opinion of the Kenyon Committee on the role of public libraries in education and cultural progress is of special significance to us today. In a highly imaginative book,[2] published recently, the author quotes Vice-Admiral Rickover of the U.S. Republican Party as having said after his tour of U.S.S.R., "Our real race with the Soviet Union is in the field of education..... The nation that comes out ahead in this race will be potentially the strongest". (Reported in the New York Times dated, August 10, 1959). Fortunately for us the role of education for progress has been duly stressed in our Five Year Plans, as will be evident from the policy statement in this behalf in the Third Plan (Chapter XXIX p. 573). But there appear to be some maladjustments between the various schemes of educational

[2] Fritz Baade = The race to the year 2000. p. 187.

development causing wastage and retarding progress of creating informed and enlightened public consciousness. In another context the present writer calculated that nearly one-sixth of a total of 6 crores of children made literate through formal education at a cost of Rs. 900 crores over a period of 13 years from 1951-52 to 1963-64 relapsed into illiteracy. In terms of money this waste represents a sum of Rs. 150 crores. The reason is not far to seek. There was practically no provision to enable them to support, sustain and utilise their newly acquired literacy after their formal education was over so soon. During this period the country as a whole did not spend on public libraries even .3% of its total expenditure on education or 1% of what it expended on primary education alone. Again, the little that was spent on public libraries was confined to urban areas having the vast rural areas where three-fourths of the new literate population live. In U.S.A. the local governments who administer school education as in India (upto the primary stage) spend 1.5% of their total tax revenue on public libraries against 25% on schools. This means that allocation for public libraries accounts for 1.5 cents in a tax dollar and this works out to 6% of the allocation for schools. Efforts made over the past few years, especially after the Library Advisory Committee reported in 1959 suggesting an unworkable system of financing public library development in India, to relate sources and quantum of expenditure on public library development to that on education in general and primary education in particular, have yielded definite results. But this we shall discuss later.

Let us examine further data relating to public library finance in U.S.A. The governments at three levels, federal, state and local (almost in the same manner as they are organised in India) spent in all a sum of $45.5 billion on all operations in 1942. In 1961 the expenditure rose to $165 billion registering a rise of 264%. Total expenditure on public libraries (by the local and state governments) in 1939 amounted to $48.8 million. In 1961 this rose to 310.7 million registering an increase of 537%. As against all Governmental expenditure at the federal, state and local levels taken together expenditure on public libraries increased from .167% in 1948 to .3% in 1961.

If we compare the progress of expenditure in the U.S.A. on public libraries with that on general education we get data to show that the comparative increase over the past twenty years in favour of the former will be nearly 100% more over the latter. Available data register an increase of 415% in expenditure on general education from 1942 to 1959 as against 537% increase in the case of ex-

penditure on public libraries from 1939 to 1961. Thus we find that in U.S.A. over the past 20 years proportionataly the rate of increase in expenditure on public libraries has exceeded by a fair margin the rate of increase in expenditure on all operations taken together and that on general education considerad separately. Again, because of the fact that maintainance of adequate public service being the charge of local governments the state governments spent in 1939 only $2,70,000 on public lipraries whereas in 1961 the States' grants-in-aid for this purpose assumed a ninety-five fold increase to $2,51,00,000. These are most significant data in our search for ways and means to finance public library development in India.

In U.S.A. as in UK it is the responsibility of local governments to maintain public library services. Interestingly enough in 1848, 2 years before the Public Library Act of 1850 was passed in U.K., the first legal authorisation to levy a rate for public library service was introduced in U.S.A. in the city of Boston. The example set by allowing this authorisation to the city of Boston was later followed as a general pattern for financing public library services by local governments in U.S.A. out of a levy based on the property tax as in U.K. We may now take up the discussion of the methods of financing public library services in U.S.A. for which valuable data are available.

Generlly speaking, as in India, the constitution in U.S.A. provides for organisation of the government at three levels, federal or union, state and local. In both the countries the constitutions auhorise the federal/union and state governments to raise funds through taxation, borrowing and profits out of state enterprises of commercial and industrial character. The quantum and character of levy of the taxes, according to the constitutions of both the countries, are authorised by legislations at the federal/union and state levels. The local governments, like the city corporations, town municipalities, district boards, school and special districts etc. in either of the two countries have no authority to levy taxes unless the state governments authorise them by legislation to raise such funds to discharge their responsibilities, which generally include public health, sanitation, roads, public parks and recreation, education upto certain level (primary education only in India), public library service, lighting of streets and public places, transport etc.

Let us examine where from the finance for public libraries, or for the matter of that, finance for public services in U.S.A. is drawn.

Even towards the beginning of the twentieth century among the governments at the three levels, the local governments were the

largest collectors of taxes, and property tax yielded the major portion of the total tax revenue. In 1902 of the total tax collected by the federal, state and local governments the local governments' collections accounted for 51.2 per cent while those of the federal and state governments' accounted for 37.4 per cent and 11.4 per cent respectively. During the next fifty years the tax structure underwent revolutionary changes. In 1956 the tax revenue of local governments came down to 14.2 per cent as compared to 71.2 per cent collection by the federal governments, while the comparable figure for the state governments remained stationary at 11.4 per cent. Further, striking changes took place in the sources of revenue. The property tax that yielded over 50 per cent of the total tax income of the governments at all levels in 1902 contributed only 12.8 per cent in 1956; in comparison, income tax that made a small contribution to the total tax revenue in 1902 accounted for 60.7 per cent in 1956. Alongwith the great progress achieved by U.S.A. in producing new wealth during the first half of the current century the federal government came out in a big way not only to control the country's fiscal measures but also to support introduction and maintenance of welfare services and amenities for the people, whose welfare is its constitutional obligations as in India. In the fiscal sense revolutionary measures were introduced to tax newly created income and wealth which hardly took the old tangible form of real properties but found new expression in the forms of securities, bonds, stock, mortgages, and big business holdings in many forms, spread all over the country and beyond its boundaries. In the national interest the federal government began playing the dominant role in collection as well as in utilization of revenue. We have referred to earlier that in nineteen years (1942 to 1961) the annual governmental expenditure in U.S.A. rose from $45.5 billion to $165 billion. In this context the rationale of the traditional tax structure has been under constant scrutiny. In one of the most recent works[3] on the U.S. local government while discussing local finance the author writes, "In the early years of our nation, the property tax was a fairly good measure of ability to pay, since there was a close relationship between property owned and the income received..... It is obvious from even this brief description of property that it is no longer a measure of one's ability to pay taxes. Some properties produce income for their owners, others do not. Many Americans own no tangible and perhaps little intangible property and yet have sizable incomes". In support of his criticism against property tax the same author quotes

[3] American Local Government by George S. Blair, New York. Harper and Raw. 1964. pp. 379-381.

an authority[4] on public finance as saying, "The assumption that the general property tax is an equitable impost is as fallacious as its hypothetical uniformity of application. Much property is not taxed because it is never valued and the property that is assessed is valued so unequally that the general property tax is grossly inequitable. It cannot be defended satisfactorily on the basis of ability to pay or the benefits received from government, because property is a suitable measure of neither. Its persistence in tar systems must be accounted for largely on grounds of expendiency".

As we are discussing finance of local governments in U.S.A. with the purpose of studying the problems of financing public library service, it will be interesting to know the trend of increasing state and federal grants-in-aid and subsidy to support local governments' public services (including public library service) in that country. In 1902 local governments received federal and state grants amounting to 8 per cent of their total tax revenue. In 1960 federal and state grants amounted to as much as 45 per cent of their tax revenue. The total grants increased from $56 million in 1922 to $9.2 billion in 1960. This gives us an idea how the federal and state governments have been increasingly taking responsibilities to finance local services that were 50 years ago almost exclusively the responsibilities of the local governments and administratively still remain the responsibilities of the local governments.

The conclusion that can be drawn from the above discussion is obvious. Public library service here in India should also be administratively the responsibility of the local governments. We need hardly discuss the subtle difference between the structure of governmental machinery at the three levels federal/union, state and local in U.S.A. and India. It is enough for our purpose to know that generally the structures are comparable at these three broad levels. We have already quoted above some figures explaining the trend and progress of expenditure on general education and library service administered by local governments in the U.S.A. We have also mentioned that the state governments who expended a little over $2.5 lakhs for public library service in 1939 gave grants-in-aid to local governments for the same purpose amounting to over $2.5 crores in 1961. The matter has by now drawn also the attention of the federal government. In view of the great importance of public library service the U.S. Congress passed in 1956 Library Service Act authorising appropriation of funds to support and stimulate development of public library service in rural areas with less than 10,000 inhabitants. This Act, first operative for five years, has been extended for another five

[4] Alfred Buehler — Public Finance 3rd ed. McGraw Hill. 1948. p. 341.

years in 1961. The federal grants for the purpose amounted to $20,50,000 in 1957; by 1962 this has risen to $75,00,000. This direct interest of the federal government in developing public library service in rural areas that can not afford adequate service to its small and relatively less affluent population is a pointer for us in India to take note of.

We have already stated some facts regarding the fine public library system built in the U.K. over a period of a little over a century. Today the system offers on a per capita basis stock of 1.5 volumes with an annual circulation of 8.6 volumes at a cost of approximately 9s (Rs. 6 nearly) per annum. The total annual expenditure on public libraries amounted to £25 million nearly in 1961-62 and this sum equalled 2.5% of the total expenditure on education in that year.

The local governments form the first of a two-tier system of government in U.K. The local governments provide and maintain public library service and a good number of services like, school education, health, sanitation and a host of others. Eighty per cent of the total income of local governments are from two sources, Government grants and local rates. Local taxes are known as local rates realised from occupiers of land and buildings as contributions to the cost of local services. A library rate is there to support public library service. The local rates and funds raised by local authorities are not enough to finance the local services fully. The Central Government grants accounted for 45 per cent of the income of local government in 1963-64.

So far as public library service in the U.K. is concerned, successive reviews at intervals pionted out its inadequacy and suggested provision for better and more liberal service. The last of such a review was by a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Sydney Roberts in 1959. On the basis of the recommendations of the Roberts Committee two Working Groups also reported on (1) Standards of public library service and (2) Inter-Library Cooperation. In view of all these, a new Public Libraries and Museums Act has been passed by the Parliament in July, 1964 (to come into effect from April, 1965). For the first time the Minister of Education has been made responsible for certain operational aspect of library service under this Act. In effect, this, it is expected, will lead to better and more liberal public library service, which in its turn will need more expenditure. In nine years from 1952-53 to 1961-62 the expenditure on public libraries increased by over 123% from £11.2 million to £25 million approximately. The Central Government grants already being so very substantially involved in the local

government operations, one can only expect that in the ultimate analysis it will be not the local library rate but the Government grants that may furher improve public library service in the U.K. In the 1963-64 Government budget there is a provision for £2,738 million (@7.11 per £) under the revenue expenditure for social services. Out of this sum of £794 million (12.9% of the entire budgeted expenditure for the year) accounts for general and rate deficiency grants to local governments. Grants from the Central revenue to finance local services which the local governments are unable to support fully out of local tax revenue (rates) are fast increasing. Only in three years such grants have increased by a little over 23% from £645 million in 1961-62 to £794 million in 1963-64. The trend provides the obvious conclusion regarding the increasing responsibility of the Central Government to finance social services for which the local governments' revenue is being progressively found more and more wanting in the wake of successive extention of social welfare activities of the nation.

Public libraries in Scandinavian countries have made great progress during the past few decades. Denmark with a population of 45 lakhs first started in 1914 a system of central public libraries (Centralbiblioteker) in towns, 33 Centralibiblioteker had been established by 1948. These central libraries have the double functions of directly serving the inhabitants of the towns in which they are located and acting as the feeder and guiding centres of county libraries (Amtsbibliotek) in the adjoining rural areas. The state government maintains Inspectorate of Public Libraries to administer state grants to public libraries. In 1959-60 the Inspectorate granted 15.5 million kroner (Rs. 1.076 crores) to public libraries while the local governments' contributions amounted to 29 million kroner (Rs. 2.014 crores) in that year. Grants are given by the state according to rules framed under public library legislations of the country. The high standard of living and excellent social services such as education, health etc. developed by Denmark and other Scandinavian countries are known all over the world.

In 1959-60 1,527 separate public libraries in Denmark had a total book stock of 90 lakhs volumes (2 volumes per capita). The pattern of public library organisation and state grants to public libraries in Denmark are followed with certain local variations in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

So far as financing of public libraries in Scandinavian countries are concerned it is worth noting that in a country like Denmark which enjoys one of the highest standard of living in Europe the Central Government has to provide a little over one-third of the

total cost of public libraries maintained by local governments, which are pretty affluent by any standard.

Unfortunately for any study of the Indian situation, in a manner as indicated above briefly in respect of U.S.A., U.K. and Scandinavian countries, very little data are available. Absence of any comparable system of public libraries and compilations of relevant statistics regarding local governments add to our difficulties in this regard.

Let us begin with examining the budgetary position of local governments (mostly urban excluding city corporations) in certain states for the year 1959-60.

In the state of Kerala during the year under review 27 local authorities having a total population of 13.57 lakhs collected from local rates and taxes Rs. 64.8 lakhs (Rs. 4.78 per head) and spent Rs. 128.69 lakhs on all services maintained by them. Realisation of taxes on houses and lands yielded Rs. 27.70 lakhs (42.7% of local tax collection) Expenditure on education accounted for Rs. 4.62 lakhs (Rs. 0.34 per head). In Mysore 181 local authorities having 33.42 lakhs of inhabitants had a total collection of Rs. 262.7 lakhs (Rs. 7.86 per head) out of which taxes on houses and land yielded Rs. 62.14 lakhs (23.6% of the total collection). The total expenditure and that on education amounted to Rs. 566.62 lakhs and Rs. 53.54 lakhs (Rs. 1.60 per head) respectively. In Punjab 156 local governments with a population of 38.21 lakhs collected Rs. 350.24 lakhs (Rs. 9.17 per head) from rates and taxes including Rs. 27.92 lakhs from taxes on houses and land (6% of the total collection) and spent a total sum of Rs. 194.66 lakhs including Rs. 29.67 lakhs on education (Rs. 0.77 per head).

In a tabular form the data will present themselves as follows :—

State	Kerala	Mysore	Punjab
No. of Local Governments	27	181	156
Population	1357000	3342000	3821000
Total revenue receipts (per capita)	Rs. 64,80,000 (Rs. 4.78)	Rs. 2,62,70,000 (Rs. 7.86)	Rs. 3,50,24,000 (Rs. 9.17)
Revenue from taxes on houses and land (percentage of total revenue).	Rs. 27,70,000 (42.7)	Rs. 62,14,000 (23.6)	Rs. 27,92,000 (8)
Total expenditure (per capita)	Rs. 1,28,69,000 (Rs. 9.33)	Rs. 56,62,000 (Rs. 16.95)	Rs. 5,94,66,000 (Rs. 15.56)
Expenditure on education (per capita)	Rs. 4,62,000 (Rs. 0.34)	Rs. 53,54,000 (Rs. 1.60)	Rs. 29,67,000 (Rs. 0.77)

Interpretation of the data in any manner in relation to services, with which these local governments (mostly urban municipalities) are concerned, will show how poor their resources are. Extremely miserable conditions of sanitation, public health, water supply, street lighting, roads, etc. are well known. The figures speak a volume about the present financial resources of the local governments and the future prospect of the same. Interestingly enough even in Kerala which has the distinction of having the highest percentage of literacy (46.8% as against the all India figure of 24%) among the 16 states and where the state Government's expenditure on education equals 31.3% (Rs. 14 per head in 1964-65) of their total revenue expenditure per annum the 27 local governments on an average can afford to spend only 34 paise on that account and, that too, after their local tax revenue is heavily supplemented by the State Government for financing local services. Some people readily talk of surcharge on property tax. A surcharge or cess on the so-called property tax (houses and land) even at a rate of 10% will yield in the above 364 municipal areas only 20 paise, 18 paise and 6 paise per head per annum in Kerala, Mysore and Punjab respectively. The ability of the local governments to raise funds must be viewed in the context of overall fiscal policy as dictated by circumstances created by the developmental programmes under the Five Year Plans.

The expenditure incurred by these local governments on public library service is unrecognisably small.

Lest any doubt arises with regard to the financial position of the big city corporations in India, a few relevant data may be considered. Bombay city corporation had in 1962-63 a total income of Rs. 17.32 crores under revenue account as against a total expenditure Rs. 16.35 crores. Rs. 3.34 crores or 20.4% of the total expenditure accounted for educational expenses. Only Rs. 3,29,790 had been spent on Free Reading Rooms and Libraries during that year. This works out to less than 1% of the expenditure on education and .2% of the total expenditure. One can easily imagine what kind of public library service is possible in a city like Bombay with nearly 30 lakhs of population (excluding greater Bombay) at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs per annum. The incidence of expenditure on all accounts per head per annum in our principal cities is as follows :—

	Rs.
Bombay	46.53
Delhi	35.02
Ahmedabad	31.22
Madras	31.06
Calcutta	27.39

As for Bombay, we have given above the amount spent on public library service. In other cities, generally speaking, the situation will not be much different. In this context we must note that the taxable capacity of the average citizen has since been squeezed greatly. The revenue incomes of these cities have increased during recent years. In 1953-54 the Corporation of Calcutta had a revenue income of Rs. 5.6 crores in 1961-62 the same rose to Rs. 9.4 crores. Income of the Bombay city Corporation rose from Rs. 7.15 crores in 1956-57 to Rs. 17.32 crores in 1962-63. These city corporations are unable to deal with problems of sprawling slums in and around them, inadequacy of water supply, sanitation and other services with their own resources. It will be unrealistic to expect them to provide and maintain and worthwhile public library service for millions of their citizens.

We may now have a look into the budgetary position of the Union and State Governments. The expenditure of the Union Government under revenue account rose from the 346.64 crores in 1950-51 to Rs. 1.876.76 crores in 1964-65 (estimate). This means a 441 per cent increase in 15 years. During the same period the total expenditure of the State Governments taken together rose from Rs. 392.6 crores to Rs. 1,547.9 crores registering an increase of 294%. If we compare the percentage increase in expenditures of the governments at the Union and State levels we find that it works out to 147% more in favour of the former. If we go down to the third level of our governmental organisations i.e. the local governments this receding trend from higher to lower forms of governments will be evident. The expenditure of the Corporation of Calcutta increased by only 67.7% during a period of nine year from Rs. 5.603 crores in 1953-54 to Rs. 9.3965 crores in 1961-62. Further down the steps to municipal and local bodies the trend will be more marked.

The above analysis in the context of increasing centralised control of fiscal policy for financing the Five Year Plans leaves no doubt how and wherefrom the finances of public library service in India should come.

Lastly, let us examine the progress of expenditure on education in India since 1950-51, the year preceding the commencement of the First Five Year Plan in 1951-52. For selected years the expenditure is as follows:—

Year	Expenditure (in crores of Rs.)
1950-51	114.38
1955-56	189.66
1960-61	344.1
1961-62	391.9

Further, it may also be noted that during this period under review Government (Union and States) expenditure for education increased from Rs. 65.27 crores in 1950-51 to Rs. 267.5 crores in 1961-62. During the same period expenditure of local governments for education on a percentage basis decreased from 10.9% to 6.7%.

In 1956 the U.S.S.R. had 1,44,300 public libraries, all brought within a centralised system under the Principal Library Inspectorate of the Ministry of Culture. These libraries had a stock of 10.2 volumes and a circulation of 18.4 volumes per reader on an average. Library service in U.S.S.R. is an integral part of the education system. Like all other social services an extensive library service of the order, indicated above, has been developed there in keeping with the tremendous progress of education since 1917. It is a common knowledge today that pioneering programmes of national development, so successfully executed within such a short time, account for the unprecedented rate of progress of the U.S.S.R. Not only India and other developing countries but also quite a few of the developed ones have accepted national planning as the most effective apparatus for orderly growth.

We have no national public library system in India and public library development programmes under our Five Year Plans have been incredibly small. During the Second Plan period only a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs (.4 per cent) had been spent on library development as compared with an outlay of Rs. 221 crores on development of education in general. The position during the Third Plan period ending in 1965-66 will be no better according to the data worked out so far. As referred to earlier, efforts made to find out a rational basis to relate expenditure on public library service to that on education in general and primary education in particular have convinced me of the desirability of an allocation of a sum equivalent to 5% of the annual expenditure on primary education and 1.5% of that on education in general for public library service to start with. This being no occasion for the purpose, without going into details it may be recorded that such a provision will clearly make available for library service a sum of well over 6 crores per annum at the current rate of expenditure on either account. It will be worthwhile to note that in six years expenditure on education increased by 65.8 per cent from Rs. 114.38 crores in 1950-51 to Rs. 189.66 crores in 1955-56 and during the next six years in 1961-62 the expenditure rose to Rs. 391.94 crores registering an increase of 106.6 per cent. It is needless to say that progressive realisation of the importance of education for development will further accelerate the increase in investment in education under our future Plans. The proportionate

increase in public library service must keep pace with this process. In fact, at a stage of development a demand will be generated within the educational system itself for an upward revision of the rate of expenditure on public libraries.

A Working Group on Libraries appointed by the Planning Commission is currently engaged in preparing a draft programme for public library development during the Fourth Five Year to commence in 1966-67. A draft programme for the Fourth Plan with a projection in perspective to the Fifth Plan, as submitted by the present writer, envisages an expenditure of Rs. 35 crores in the Fourth and Rs. 78.33 crores in the Fifth Plans. We know too well that the local governments in India are unable to finance any such developmental programmes out of their own revenues. Needless to say that all the money for the programmes must come from the general revenues of the Union and State Governments, in proportions, to be settled between them in the context of other educational development programmes. Allocation of a sum of Rs. 35 crores out of the total investment of Rs. 21,500 crores or a little more, as has been proposed for the Fourth Plan, should not present any difficulty in adjusting educational and cultural programmes under the Plan accordingly. The real problem of public library development in India is one of a policy decision with regard to its relative priority among other schemes of educational and cultural development.

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Those interested in public library development in India may well take note of Mr. Chakravarty's profound work on the subject. Attention of readers of *IASLIC Bulletin* is invited in this context to his 2 previous articles—"Trend and Progress of Public Library Development in India" and "Report of the Advisory Committee for Libraries 1959 and the Future of Public Library Service in India" published in Vol. 7, No. 3 *and* Vol. 9, No. 2 respectively.

EDITOR.